

SAFETY TIPS AND REGULATIONS:

Lightning is common in the summer afternoons. Stay low, avoid standing next to trees, and seek shelter.

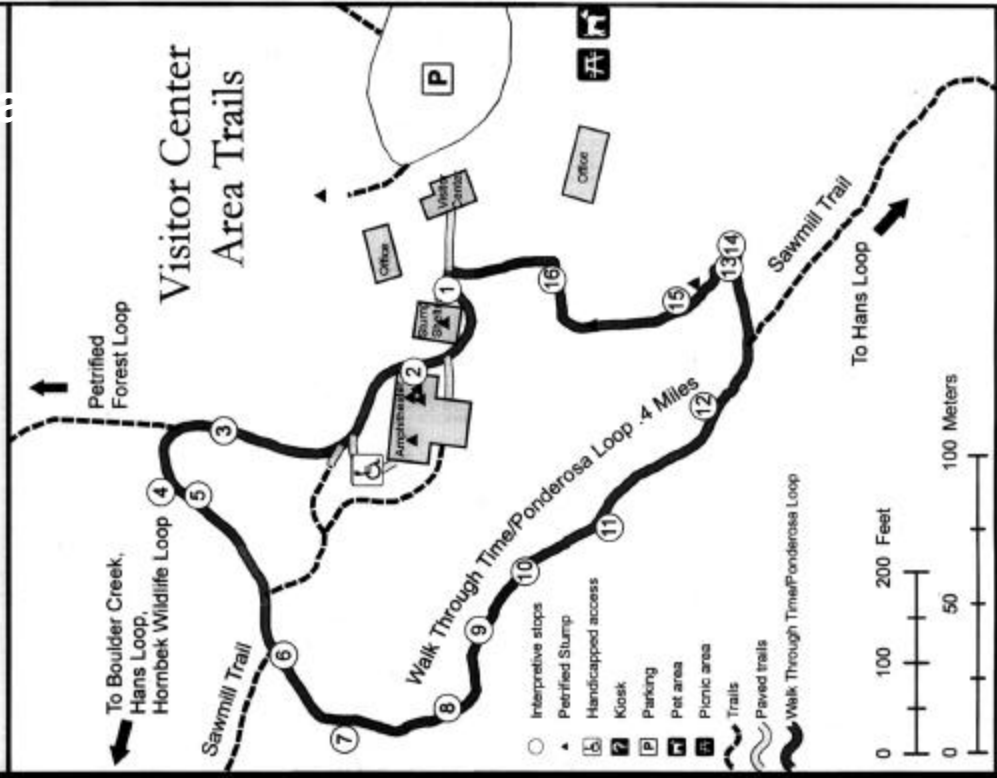
The sun is intense at high elevation. Use sun block and hats.

Headache, fatigue, and nausea can be symptoms of altitude sickness. Drink plenty of water and avoid strenuous activity until you are acclimated.

Do not feed wildlife. They can carry diseases such as hantavirus and zoonotic plague.

Collecting petrified wood, fossils, rocks, wildflowers, or any natural product is prohibited.

Dogs and bikes are prohibited.



Self-guided Trails: Brochures Available at Desk

Walk Thru Time/Ponderosa Loop - ½ mile

This trail provides a scenic introduction to the Florissant Fossil Beds. The path features giant petrified redwood stumps, an outcrop of fossil bearing shale, and a walk through the Montane forest.

This trail starts behind the visitor center and returns to the visitor center area. EASY

Petrified Forest Loop – 1 mile

This trail leads through the bed of ancient Lake Florissant. It passes numerous giant petrified redwood trees, including the colorful “Big Stump.” The trail also passes the historic “Scudder” excavation pit.

This trail starts off the Walk Thru Time/ Ponderosa Loop Trail which is behind the visitor center. EASY

Loop Trails: Mileages for loop trails are roundtrip from the Visitor Center except for Hans Loop.

Hornbek Wildlife Loop - 4 miles

Following meadows, the trail to the historic Hornbek Homestead crosses land once covered by Lake Florissant. The return route overlooks the ancient lakebed and the mountain ranges beyond. Signs of wildlife are common.

MODERATE

Sawmill Trail - 2.2 miles

The varied terrain provides a good example of Colorado’s Montane Life Zone. Forests of pine, spruce and fir, meadows frequented by elk, ridgetops viewing Pikes Peak, and shaded streams make this a favorite.

MODERATE

Hans Loop - 1.2 miles

The Hans Trail is an extension of the Sawmill. Part of the trail follows a gentle ridge that provides vistas of Pikes Peak and then drops into a drainage that passes the remnants of a rustic cabin.

MODERATE

Boulder Creek Trail - 3.2 miles

This trail begins and ends in the ponderosa pine forest. A portion of the trail follows through wet meadows and past a formation of giant eroded granite boulders.

MODERATE

One Way Trails:

Twin Rock Trail - 2.2 miles

Following a riparian, or stream habitat, this trail features quiet views of rock formations, open meadows, aspen groves, willows and pond life. Signs of wildlife are common.

MODERATE

Shooting Star Trail - 2.2 miles

This trail follows an old roadbed and leaves the meadows to travel through the Ponderosa Pine forest. It was named after the nearby Shootin’ Star Ranch. Look for signs of former agricultural activity.

MODERATE